

# THE SCRIVENER



*The Journal of Calderdale Family History Society  
Incorporating Halifax & District*

Number 161

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# CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Incorporating HALIFAX and DISTRICT

Calderdale Family History Society was founded on the 7th March 1985.

## We aim

- To encourage interest in, and assist with, research relevant to the study of family history in Halifax and the Calder valley.

## Our area

- Covers the modern Calderdale Council established in 1975, which broadly covers the same area as the Ancient Parish of Halifax, with the addition to the west of the townships of Todmorden and Walsden.

## We do this by

- Holding meetings, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (except December) in Halifax.
- Publishing *The Scrivener*, a quarterly journal, in paper form for full members and on our website for internet members. Contact the Editor.
- Publishing a monthly Newsletter for members who have an email address, and a Facebook page. Contact the Assistant Webmaster.
- Hosting a website [www.cfhsweb.com/web/](http://www.cfhsweb.com/web/), and a members' forum. Contact the Webmaster.
- Running a Research Room at Brighouse Library two half days a week for personal research. Contact the Research Room co-ordinator.
- Running projects to transcribe records relevant to members' research. Contact the Projects Co-ordinator.
- Publishing transcribed records. Contact the Publications Officer.
- Providing an enquiry and search service from our records in the Research Room. Contact the Enquiry service Co-ordinator.
- Maintaining a list of members' interests by surname and dates of interest, which are available to members on the website. Each quarter new additions are published in *The Scrivener*. Contact the Members' Interests Co-ordinator.
- Maintaining an index of "Strays" (Calderdale people who appear in records elsewhere). Contact the Strays Co-ordinator.

## Membership

- Is open to all family historians who have an interest in the area. Contact the Membership Secretary.
- Annual subscriptions are £10.00 for UK individuals (£12.00 for family membership), £15/ £17 for Overseas
- Internet membership is £5.50/ £7.50 which only provides information such as the journal on the Internet, but not on paper.
- Subscriptions are due on the 1st of the month, on the anniversary of joining the Society (cheques made payable to CFHS.) and should be sent to the Treasurer.
- Overseas payments must be made in sterling, drawn on a bank with a branch in the UK, by Sterling Money Order.
- Membership subscriptions may be paid annually by Standing Order:  
**Account Name :** Calderdale FHS   **Bank Sort Code :** 30-93-76   **Acc. No.** 01670491  
**Reference to use :** Memb. No. & Surname. (eg 1234Smith)
- Credit Card payments for subscriptions and purchases of our publications may be made over the Internet via Genfair ([www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)).

## Contacting the Society

- All correspondence requiring a reply must be accompanied by a S.A.E. or 2 recent I.R.C.'s [International Reply Coupons]. Contact the Secretary or appropriate officer.
- The names, addresses and email contacts of the Society's officers and co-ordinators appear inside the back cover of *The Scrivener* and on the Society's website.

## CONTENTS

### ARTICLES

FRONT COVER	4
EDITORIAL	5
BERMERSIDE OPEN AIR SCHOOL	8
February 2017 Talk	
AN OFF CUMDER IN HEBDEN BRIDGE	13
March 2017 Talk ~ BURIED ALIVE	20
INGHAM Y-DNA	26
May 2016 Talk ~ IN THE STEPS OF THE BRONTËS	29
WOOL GATHERING	40
HALIFAX BRITISH SCHOOL - School Logs extracts	42
HELP WANTED - HARGREAVES	45
INFORMATION WANTED -	
HISTORY OF THE NHS (UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK)	49

### GENERAL INFORMATION

GRO: CERTIFICATES ONLINE	28
LICHFIELD RECORDS OFFICE CLOSURE	28
17 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY 'CENSUS'	36
HUDDERSFIELD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY	47
USEFUL CONTACTS	48
FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS, etc	49
ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX ~ Chapelries & Townships	52

### CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

ABOUT CFHS	2
OBITUARY Mike Hardcastle	5
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION	6
APPEAL FOR A NEW SOCIETY AUDITOR.	19
TALK SUMMARISERS NEEDED !	27
SCHOOL LOGS - Here at Last!	37
MEMBERS' INTERESTS	41
SPRING MEETINGS	46
RESEARCH ROOM DETAILS	47
CFHS OFFICERS	50

### PUBLICATION & SERVICES SUPPLEMENT

P1- P4

## *THE SCRIVENER*

Publication Dates

Deadline Dates for Copy

**SPRING 2018 (March)**

**FEBRUARY 12th**

**SUMMER 2018 (June)**

**MAY 1st**

**AUTUMN 2018 (September)**

**AUGUST 20th**

**WINTER 2018 (December)**

**NOVEMBER 12th**

*Please note that, due my other commitments, the copy date for the Summer issue is MAY 1st. Editor.*

### **Data Protection Act**

Under the terms and conditions of the Data Protection Act (1998), when you joined Calderdale Family History Society (CFHS) as a member, you agreed that your personal information would be stored in a retrieval system and saved as a hard copy. A subset of this information is also held, securely, on the CFHS website for the purposes of allowing member access to the Members Only section of the website. Names & E-Mail addresses only may be published in the Society Quarterly magazine, The Scrivener, for any member participating in the Members' Interests System.

If you decide not to renew your membership, or your membership of CFHS lapses, all your personal information will be deleted from all retrieval systems (electronic or paper hard copy) after up to 24 months of your membership expiring.

You may, at any time, withdraw your consent by contacting CFHS Membership Secretary. This may exclude you from the ability to use some of the Society's facilities.

### **Insurance Exclusions**

*The insurance which we hold for certain activities undertaken by members is limited to cover for members under 75 years of age. Consequently, any member over 75 who is concerned about taking part in specific Society activities should contact the Secretary for clarification.*

### FRONT COVER

Bain News Service, P. **Pupil on weighing scale, Bermerside School** . . [No Date Recorded on Caption Card] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/ggb2004004119/>.

See article by Mark Harrey on page 8.

## *Editorial*

New Data Protection legislation is coming into force in May 2018, and CFHS is making changes to the Constitution in consequence. (See Data Protection Act on page 4, and the article on page 6. You have a vote about the changes to our Constitution.)

Peter Lord has put out an appeal for a new Auditor for the Society (page 19). Please read this and see if you would consider putting your name forward.

And Peter is also looking for volunteers to transcribe the monthly meetings talks, which I'm sure you enjoy reading in Scrivener, as I do. (page 27)

Mark Harrey continues his series of articles on the background to the School Logs

As always, thank you all for your contributions to Scrivener, and lively correspondence. (If your bit is not in this issue, look out for it in the next!). Keep them coming!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

[editor@cfhsweb.com](mailto:editor@cfhsweb.com)

### **Mike Hardcastle**

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Mike Hardcastle, one of our long-serving members, passed away on Friday 24th November, after a long illness.

Mike did a tremendous amount of work for both our Society & for Huddersfield FHS, where he, almost single-handedly, transcribed the Monumental Inscriptions for Edgerton Cemetery, as well as making photographic records of many of them.

At Calderdale, he was a member of the team who ran the Research Room in Brighouse Library for many years & also coordinated our Members' Interests section to provide our members' with connections to help them widen their family research.

We offer our condolences to Mike's wife, Beth, and their family - he will be sadly missed.

## **Proposed changes to the Constitution.**

Some of you will be aware that new legislation comes into force in May 2018 concerning Data Protection. This legislation will be issued under the title "General Data Protection Regulations" (GDPR) and will be controlled by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

It was originally instigated within the EU, but, even with Brexit on the horizon, the UK government is implementing their own legislation which is likely to be as stringent as that within the EU.

We have been advised by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) not to finalise our procedures concerning GDPR until the final version of the legislation is formally published. This is likely to be in the early part of 2018. However, we are clear that there will be a requirement for certain policies to be in place to safeguard both the personal data that we hold about people (principally you, our members) & also to have in place protection for our Committee in the unlikely case of action being taken against us for data security breach.

It is worth saying at this stage that, providing we have a set of processes in place to safeguard such data adequately, we have written descriptions of these and that we have an appointed officer to police these, it is extremely unlikely that :-

- Any data violation will take place.
- In the unlikely event of it happening, any prosecutions would made.
- Even if prosecutions were levelled, that they would be successful.

Part of this process is to have in our written Constitution reference to such processes, so that, even in the event of wholesale changes in our Committee & Officers, the membership can be confident that the Society is adequately covered.

Even though the detail of the processes involved cannot yet be finalised, we need to give you, our members, 3 months notice for any proposed Constitution changes. Rather than call a special EGM, it is sensible to propose these for approval at our next AGM in April 2018. Therefore, to meet the timetable, this article lays out the proposed changes & the reasons for them.

The current Constitution is available on the Society website [www.cfhsweb.com](http://www.cfhsweb.com) with a link to it from the Menu item "Members Area/ Information about the Society" once you are logged on as a member.

The proposals for change are the amendment of 2 paragraphs (Sections 4.7 & 10.3) and the addition of a new paragraph (Section 11.2), as follows :-

**(Under 4 Membership)**

4.7. The minimum age at which Members shall be eligible for Membership or Associate Membership shall be 18 (eighteen) years.

**(Under 10 Financial, Computer Systems, Data & Record Security)**

10.3. The Society will have a Data Controller, appointed by the Committee, to ensure that all aspects of Data, as described within the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), are handled & controlled in a secure manner. This will include the maintenance of a Document Retention Register listing documents relevant to the Society, and the length of time that they are to be retained.

**(Under 11 Insurance & Public Liability)**

11.2. The Officers and Members of the Committee shall each be indemnified by the Society against any liability claim or demand arising from any action taken or omission in good faith by them on behalf of the Society or its Members in the administration of the Society. This includes, but is not exclusive to, liabilities incurred through protection of data as described within the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Under the Constitution (Section 8), no less than 2/3rd of eligible votes cast must be in favour of the changes for them to be effected. These votes may be cast by current members either at the AGM in April 2018 or by proxy, sent to the Secretary, Margaret Smith. These proxies may be in free-hand, preferably using the words "I am/am not in favour of the amendments to Sections 4, 10 & 11 of the CFHS's Constitution, as laid out in the Scrivener of December 2017", using the "am" or "am not" as appropriate.

Such proxies may be sent by post to Margaret's address as shown in the back of this journal, or by E-mail to [secretary@cfhsweb.com](mailto:secretary@cfhsweb.com). Proxy votes should be received by the Secretary before 7:30pm on Thursday April 26th 2018, the day of the AGM.

Any member voting by proxy may not cast a vote at the AGM.

## **Bermerside Open Air School**

**by Mark Harrey**

There are regular entries in the School Log Books that the team are transcribing that refer to children being selected for, or returning from, Bermerside or the Open Air School. Also, the Schools' Medical Officer would sometimes make visits to examine those children who were at the Open Air School.

So, what was the Bermerside Open Air School? Open air schools, as an idea, were not restricted to England but in fact began on the continent the early 1900s. While the initial focus on many of the first open air schools was on TB, later the focus shifted to more general health issues which it was felt would benefit from fresh air and exercise. Many of the children going into open air schools would have been described as 'delicate'. One of the first open air schools in England was opened in London in 1908, and the Bermerside Open Air School, also opened in the same year, was amongst the first in the country, and something of a pioneering experiment.

The open air school was opened in 1908 in the grounds of Bermerside House, a country house that had been built in 1872 for Edward Crossley, the eldest son of Joseph Crossley J.P., of Broomfield, Halifax, Yorkshire, of the Crossley carpets dynasty. He inherited his family's carpet manufacturing business (John Crossley & Sons) from his father when he was 27. He married Jane Eleanor Baines, third daughter of the Leeds newspaper proprietor and MP Sir Edward Baines. He was the Member of Parliament for Sowerby from 1885 to 1892. He was also mayor of Halifax from 1874–1876 and 1884–1885.



Bermerside House, photographed in 2013  
Photo © Betty Longbottom (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Edward Crossley died suddenly at his home at Bermerside on 21st January 1905. Probate records show that he left an estate valued at £108,462. The estate was bought for £5,000 and Mr Alfred Donald Oates and Miss Emma Oates paid for alterations to the house into an open air school at a cost of £1,000. In addition £4,000 was set aside to start a convalescent home and form part of the Oates Trust Fund. On 5th April 1911, the house was given to the town by Arthur Donald Oates and Emma Oates in memory of their late brother Edwin James Oates.

We are fortunate that the Head Mistress of Caddy Field Infants & Mixed School, Ethel M Taylor, was invited to become the first Head Mistress of the Bermerside Open Air School: "I received a Notice from the Education Committee to the effect that from July 20 to Oct 15 I am to take charge of an Open Air School at Bermerside."

15 July 1908

On her return to normal duties at Caddy Field, in December 1908 she received, and transcribed, the Report of HM Inspector:

"Received the Report of HM Inspector's visit to Bermerside Open Air School, Dr Eicholz

"The Halifax Education Authority is among the first in the country to attempt the new experiment of the Open Air School – the object of such a school as at present devised being to afford a chance of recovery under improved environmental conditions to children who are through physical weakness unable at the present moment to benefit fully by education in their ordinary surroundings.

"The Halifax Open Air School was conducted in the months of July, August, September, and October 1908, in the grounds and in part of the premises at Bermerside, under conditions which went far in the direction of ideal provision.

"The site easy of access, facing South, on high ground with wide command of view over hill, valley, and river, well drained and in an excellent state of cultivation, left nothing to be desired. The gardens and Conservatory gave ample opportunity for open air and Nature Study lessons and the house and outbuildings were available for wet weather, accommodation, meals, the storing of clothes and materials.

"In the selection of children for admission the Authority acted wisely on both educational and physical grounds in limiting admission be-

tween the ages of six and eleven years. The majority of the children were backward in attainments, though in very few instances were there any that were actually mentally defective. In almost every case some physical defect was found to be associated with the educational retardation. Swelling of the glands of the neck, anaemia, and rickets, together accounted for the majority of the defects.

"There are several new elements, in the conduct of the school which demand special notice. The curriculum had departed somewhat widely from the accepted form of school room instruction in the impress given to Nature Study, open air physical training and manual work.

"The gardens and lawns have been used whenever possible for lessons games and recreation in order to utilise to the full the advantages of fresh air warmth and sunlight, and the weather, has been generally speaking has been very favourable to this part of the experiment. As the distance made it necessary and it was on other grounds desirable, the children remained at school all day partaking of the whole of their meals there and the parents have borne their share in the expense in varying amounts according to their resources. The Hygiene of school life has been kept in mind all along, not merely by the supervision of the Medical officer but the frequent use of baths, the steps taken to secure bodily cleanliness, the regularity of feeding, the prolonged mid-day rest in the open air, and the opportunities for organised games and recreation.

"The school was started on very short notice and with very little experience of other similar experiments to rest upon.

"Considering the difficulties, the Committee have every reason to look back upon the work of the past summer with great satisfaction. Physically, the children have improved very materially. In almost every case the weight has improved and in some cases very considerably. The specific defects noticed by the Doctor appear also to have lessened in severity. Educationally, a large proportion of the children have become brighter and more intelligent for their stay and the full benefit of this will doubtless be discovered in later months as these return to the ordinary school.

"A fact of educational importance emerging from these few months experience is the close association of mental backwardness with nutritional defects in children who are otherwise bright and energetic. The experiment seems to show that if we could permanently establish the physique of these weak children there would be much

to gain in power to think and in power to work which now remains lost.

"It is to be hoped therefore that the Authority may be encouraged by their excellent results to regard this year's work as a step which will end in the establishment of a permanent school, a school which shall exist to secure education under the healthiest conditions and shall give the weaker children the chance of leading lives whole in body, in mind, and in power."

9 Dec 1908

She then added a personal observation:

"This Report only bears out what has been the experience in this school. Children who are underfed and insufficiently clothed, and housed in rooms where overcrowding is inevitable cannot hope to compete in mental and physical work with those who are more fortunately situated. At Caddy Field School there are always a number of children who would be infinitely better off at an Open Air School.

Those who did attend Bermerside are brighter and stronger and more ready for work than they ever were before. A very noticeable improvement is Annie Molyneaux who was perfectly indifferent to all school work before, but who is now quite as keen as her classmates."

9 Dec 1908

The first year was clearly judged to be a success, and Miss Taylor was again invited to run the Open Air School in 1909 (to open on May 17 1909 for 5 months) and again in 1910.

"Shrove Tuesday – Holiday – The children and teachers of the Open Air School met at a Reunion in the Central Hall Café. Some of them have obviously gone back since they left Bermerside but nearly all look better than before they commenced attendance there."

8 Feb 1910

We are very fortunate that there are several photographs available showing pupils and staff at Bermerside. Regrettably, they are undated, but the style is clearly contemporaneous with the period of the log entries.

Finally, In 1924 the school moved to Quarry House School, Northowram. The school closed in 1966.

Further reading:

[http://www.formerchildrenshomes.org.uk/open\\_air\\_school.html](http://www.formerchildrenshomes.org.uk/open_air_school.html)



Bain News Service, P. **Children in nature study class, drawing from memory and object, Bermerside School.** . . [No Date Recorded on Caption Card] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/ggb2004004107/>.



Bain News Service, P. **Children cleaning cutlery, Bermerside School.** . . [No Date Recorded on Caption Card] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/ggb2004004109/>.

**CFHS Talk ~ February 2017**  
**An Off Cumder in Hebden Bridge**  
**by Alan Stuttard**

Hebden Bridge gives the impression that those who live and work there are a clan and outsiders are not in the club and never will be. They will always be known as off cumbants.

I have lived in Hebden Bridge for 60 years and before that worked there for 6 years, so I have been involved with Hebden Bridge for 67 years. I have been on the Council, am the Clerk to the Parish Council, been in light opera, the Little Theatre, and involved in the Hebden Bridge band. If you go to Hebden Bridge and ask for me they say "You mean that lad that comes from Tod who plays cricket?". 67 years on and I am still that lad from Tod who plays cricket.

When I went working in Hebden Bridge I got the bus. I had never been to Hebden Bridge in my life. I got on this bus and there were 4 people on. I sat down on the right hand side, and the conductor said "You can't sit there". I said "What do you mean there is nobody else on". He says "Bill gets on two stops down, its his favourite seat for booking his winners". So I said "I will move over", he said "you can't sit there you know". "Don't tell me Bill's mate gets on and they swap horses". He said "I want no trouble", so I walk up to the front of the bus. He says "where are you going?" I said I'm going to sit ... he says "Oh no when it gets to bus garage about ten get on and discuss football". I was two years before I got a seat on that bus. That's how it is Hebden Bridge.

When I first went to Hebden Bridge it was a bustling town. It was full of firms making the finest cord trousers, and the best working mans clothes, it was booming. You go now and there are lots of open spaces where there were hundreds of houses. I saw it die in the 1970's and 80's. There's only one clothing factory, where there used to be 80. Then, suddenly it became a tourist attraction, we have tourists coming every weekend. Today it is quirky and full of tourists, which is nothing new, because back in the mid nineteenth century it was a tourist attraction.

Lancashire and Yorkshire railways had opened up the town and did day trips, they issued postcards of all the beauty spots in Hebden Bridge. Some interesting facts; in 1895 on Whit Tuesday 8,000 people visited, that's more than were living there. In 1896 12,000 people came to Hebden Bridge to go in wagonettes to Hardcastle Crags to listen to Kier Hardy. On the same day 4,500 left Hebden

Bridge to go on day trips to the seaside. Hebden Bridge station must have been busy. It is busy today but nothing like that.

The company I worked for sponsored many things in Hebden Bridge. It was unbelievable, and I don't think they knew. They made costumes for the light opera when nobody was looking. The joiner made scenery for the Little Theatre. I got involved in making costumes for the light opera, and they said "why don't you join?" Hebden Bridge had a small Opera Society, it was their special year. Committee had decided that they would do The Desert Song. "We have lots of women and not so many men, eight if you join". This show is full of Arabs, Legionnaires, a load of women, and they are doing it with eight men. Imagine the first night, the stage opens, and it is full of Arabs all eight of us in front of a camp fire, with a red light, wood and a piece of paper. There with our jooleebas over our Legionnaire's uniform. After the first song, a bugle sounds, and I had to say "The Legions are coming" and I had to switch the fire off. "We must get away quickly as the Legionnaires will be on us." We dashed off stage and I must have passed all the others. Joolebas off and I am the first Legionnaire on stage. I said in my Yorkshire accent, "Oh! we're too late we just missed them", and couldn't understand why the audience were rolling about laughing, the producer was not happy. Then the officer comes on, he says "We will all go that way except you lot who go that way," to those who had not got on stage at all.

A bit later I got in a show called South Pacific and had some lines. In South Pacific the guy goes off and observes the Japanese coming, there's a big battle and they think he is dead. I say this man's action has changed the face of the war in the South Pacific for all time. I thought that is really important to me as this guy had saved everybody from the Japanese peril. What you don't realise is I saved you from the Chinese. It was like a flash back to when I was serving in the Duke of Wellingtons in Korea, I arrived in South Korea July 6<sup>th</sup> 1953. If you Google when the Chinese signed the peace treaty it was July 7<sup>th</sup> 1953 they had heard I was coming and gave in.

I got interested in stage management. We were going to do The Flower Drum Song, a lovely little show, and I was going to be the assistant stage manager. They decided to have the sets made by a firm in Nottingham. When we did the dress rehearsal some of the scenery had not arrived. There was a big outdoor scene and there was a piece of scenery called a flat at each side with a door in the middle. The leading man had this love song, about leaving his girl-friend. As he walked off he had to walk to this door open it and go

through as he sang the last song. He said "Is everything going to be alright?" I said "I have seen the set, there is a big flat, and there is a door." The day came, and all the sets were up. True enough a flat each side and a door in the middle. I said "Everything ok Chris when you sing that song and go through that door it will be sensational". He sang the song, and as he walked towards the door I realised it was a painted door with a knob. As he pulled the knob to go through he pulled it all down. For some reason I was not asked to be stage manager again.

I decided it was time I was a bit more serious. I joined the Little Theatre, and the actors took it very seriously. They used to rehearse for six weeks, three nights a week Saturday and Sunday. I did a bit of stage managing and one or two little parts. I went to London to see a play called the Sound of Murder, Peter Cushing was in it. About two years later they were auditioning for the Sound of Murder at the Little Theatre. I thought I would love to be in that, and was pleased when I saw it there was a part for me. I rehearsed for 3 nights and Saturday and Sunday, for six weeks, I was word perfect. The lead man was a guy called Norman Shepley he was a semi professional actor. When he was in a play it was always full you couldn't get a ticket for love nor money. I said to my wife after the dress rehearsals "Don't worry, when I come home Monday night I will have my own series on television", but I did something that no other amateur actor, I don't think in the country, has ever done; got a bad report. If you were not so good at all they might say you were adequate. Not me, I got a bad report. This is what was in the Hebden Bridge Times:

*'This play was dominated by the superior acting ability of Norman Shepley in the role of Charles Norbury; everybody had come to see him. Norman Shepley played this part so well he tended to overshadow the less experienced actors around him. In the role of Peter Marriot lover of Charles Norbury's wife, Alan Studdard was far from convincing. He never at anytime looked as though he was capable of a cold blooded killing to gain his mistress for himself. This was a pity, as it was a very meaty part. He never had the hard hatred smouldering stare demanded from him, as he emerged from the stairs to threaten Mr Norbury with the revolver. It was also a matter of fact that when he did eventually fire the audience gasped to see the victim fall. The play would have been better if he had missed.'*

I have never forgiven the reporter for that.

I was in a play called All for Mary, it is one of the funniest plays. It is about three guys in a ski resort that get German measles and get put in isolation hospital. I said "Who is in it?". There is Norman Leach who is the second best actor in the theatre and Norman Shepley, who had agreed to take another part with me, and a girl called Dorothy. So here I am in this show with the three leading actors from the Little Theatre. It opens with three empty beds on stage. I am the first person on stage that has to get in the middle bed, open a book, and say the first of my lines. When that's done one side the great Norman Shepley and the other side Norman Leach. I had worked with the stage staff for a long time and they were all jokers. So I get on stage and ready to get in bed and the stage staff had made an apple pie bed. So could I get in this bed? No!. So then I am getting three dimensional prompts because both Normans and the prompter thought I had forgotten my lines. I said "I can't get in the bed!" Eventually I got in and opened my book, where my line was supposed to be they had substituted it with the centre fold of Playboy. I couldn't stop laughing. They didn't tell me that Dorothy wouldn't let anybody kiss her on stage, because once she was in a passionate embrace with a leading man and her husband leapt up and threatened him. She was playing the part of a nurse. Someone said "When she comes on and tucks you in at night give her a right good kiss". I fell for it. She leant over and I kissed her. She pushed me aside and hit me; it could have knocked Mohammed Ali out. I was upset about this, and thought I will get her back for that. She had a Gladstone bag on stage, she goes off stage and rushes back on as she forgot it. We used to work in a clothing factory and had a lot of lead weight, so I filled this bag with lead weight and she couldn't lift it. Last thing on the ward she used to come round with cocoa and tea, but on the last night Norman got whisky Norman here got Brandy, I got Fennings Fever Cure!

Somebody said to me, "Look we were wondering if you would like to join the Hebden Bridge junior band." I said "I am thirty odd year old." They said "Your boy has joined and we have just started doing concerts. We would like you to be the compere". So I said ok. I come from a brass band family, my dad and brothers all played in brass bands. You have to be careful when you are introducing a brass band because you can tell the truth and it can get you in to trouble. I went on stage one day and said "I come from a brass band family my brother played with fairies". (the Fairey Band) which was true, but you can't say that. Never mention Black Dyke in America. When John Foster Black Dyke Mills went to America they had to play as John Foster Brass Band.

The junior band was formed by three ladies that wanted somewhere for their kids. The musicians ages were from about nine to eighteen. With a band like that you could never get them all together, there would be always somebody missing, but Johnny never missed a rehearsal. He used to be the first there and help Brian Robinson the conductor put the seats and music stands out. He used to practice and Brian said you can always tell Johnny practices, he's note perfect. When it was over he helped Brian put everything away, he never missed. It came to the last rehearsal before the concert; Sunday night with a big rehearsal Sunday afternoon. When rehearsal was over Brian said "This is the first time all the band has been here and this is how it should be every rehearsal. I have got Johnny a present because he never missed a rehearsal. He has helped me put the seats out and the music, he is note perfect and he is going to be perfect on the night. He presented him with a record token. He said "Now then Johnny I want you to tell everybody why it is so important that you have never missed a rehearsal". Oh, said Johnny "Mr. Robinson I thought I better not miss rehearsal as I can't come to the concert tonight."

We used to tour all over Yorkshire, and abroad too.

We went to a place in France called Colmar. We were sponsored by the Culture Exchange and the British Embassy, they had arranged for us to play outside a university in Colnwell. We got there and there was a big square but it was empty. The concert started at 7pm. they said just start playing people will come, and within ten minutes the square was full. It was a wonderful experience. It was when Terry Wogan had popularised the Floral Dance and we used to get kids up in England to join in. I thought we will try something in French. I rehearsed a piece, and I would get someone up. I spoke French and got the only Welsh girl in the audience that was from Bangor!

We went to our twin town and we got there late evening and the Mayor was lined up with his councillors. This guy is about five foot four he had a sash and one arm with decorations on. He gave a speech in French so nobody knew what he was on about. The following night we are doing a concert, I thought I will do the announcement and say something nice about the Mayor in French. I had written it all out. I gave this speech thanking this Mayor and I thought after I had done it there was a deathly hush; nothing. He looked very stern and mad and stamped and went off. Following morning I went for my bread, The girl serving behind the counter laughed. I said "What are you laughing at?" she said "I thought

your speech was very good last night". I said "The Mayor wasn't right suited", she said "No it is because of your accent". Apparently what I should have said was "I would like to thank the esteemed Mayor of Saint Paul for welcoming us" and what I actually said was "I would like to thank the effeminate Mayor". She thought that was really funny.

We were playing Wyke Working Men's Club, and they had booked the Junior Band. On a Sunday we used to take the ones that were a bit older 12-18. The concert secretary came up and said "Before we get any further can you spell." I said "I'm not so bad." "Can you spell whistle?" He put a big notice on the board saying 'After band has played their pieces, whistle play bingo!' He said "When the band plays the last number we put pie and peas on. Can you make sure they leave quick before second lot come on. We thought it was Hebden Bridge Senior Band and we have got strippers coming on." I said "Have you seen these lads they are eighteen years old there is no way you are going to get them out." It was very embarrassing.

We played at Bolton Abbey. When you are playing outside you don't have a compere, I just used to go round collecting. We played for about thirty minutes, then a voice said "Excuse me my man" I looked up and there was this guy with a picnic basket and plus fours on. He said "Are you with the band?" I said "yes I am collecting money. "He said "Do you think you band will come and play at a garden party for me". I said "You will have to have a lot of brass, there's forty plus of us." He said "Don't you know who I am? I am the Duke of Devonshire and I own all this lot." I said "You ought to get your roof mended!" They played for three years at Chatsworth House and made a lot of money, but I never got invited.

The Floral Dance was a big thing for us, and at Christmas used to make a lot of money. The girls used to dress up in bonnets and the lads in top hats and cloaks. We used to go all over the place playing Christmas carols. We played at the Arndale Centre, Bradford, and it was just like printing money. We used to play three carols then the Floral Dance. It came to lunchtime and we had a rest. I was on the top floor with my cloak, top hat and collecting box. We set off for the second half and a guy came out of a shop and said "Can I have a word", he said "You know the Floral Dance" oh I said "We will play it". He said "No I have a cheque for fifty quid here, I'll give it to you if you do not play it". I said "Don't you like it", he said "I think it is wonderful but every time you play it empties my shop".

One day at work a chap said to me “What’s the difference between knowledge and wisdom?”

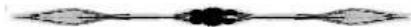
“I don’t know”

He said, “Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit”

I asked “What’s wisdom?”

He said “Never put it in a fruit salad!”

That’s it, Bye all!!



### **Appeal for a new Society Auditor.**

Our Society has the accounts audited annually by members of the Society who hold no other office. Additionally, the books are checked by an external auditor every 3 years.

Our current auditors, Neil Atkinson & Harvey Eglen have done the job for us for a number of years & we are grateful to them both for carrying out the task so well in that time. However, Neil has decided that the 2017-18 accounts will be the last one that he wishes to do. Consequently, we need a Society member to volunteer to take his role on from April 2019 and work with Harvey, who is happy to continue for at least another year.

The appointment of auditor is voted on annually at our AGM in April, so we would like to have a name to put forward in April 2018.

The role involves checking the accounts from printed documents & all the associated supporting paperwork - no computer work is involved.

If you feel that you would like to take on this important role, please contact Peter Lord, in the first instance at [treasurer@cfhsweb.com](mailto:treasurer@cfhsweb.com), who will give you more detail about what is involved & then submit your name, formally, to Margaret Smith, our Secretary, at [secretary@cfhsweb.com](mailto:secretary@cfhsweb.com)

**CFHS Talk ~ March 2017**  
**Buried Alive**  
**by David Glover**

When looking at Parish records, documents, diaries and newspapers as you research your family history, it's easy to see that sudden death was a regular occurrence.

When the gravestones in the Halifax Parish Church were transcribed in the 1930's, one was found which said at the bottom, that the remains of the said couple were interred 'through mistake, near this spot'. Were they buried there by mistake? Perhaps they were not really dead, but were in a deep trance.

In the mid 1800's, Edward Johnson Walker - Editor of the Halifax Guardian researched the tale of well-to-do William Hague, who in September 1762 married Mary, daughter of Samuel Ridings at Manchester Cathedral. The couple returned to Halifax and settled in Lower Shaw Hill. During the next few years several children were born to them and were baptised at Halifax Parish Church. In 1770, Mary died and her body placed in a vault inside the church. That evening, the light-fingered sexton went into the vault which was covered but not sealed, and tried to remove the lady's rings. Perhaps it was the fresh air or she was disturbed by the movement of him poking about. Whatever it was, she came back to life, possibly in a catatonic trance. The result was that, in fright, the poor sexton rushed up his ladder in alarm, leaving the door open. Still dressed in her grave clothes, Mrs Hague climbed out of the vault herself and walked home in the darkness, got there and knocked loudly. Her female servant heard the familiar voice saying, "Open up, I am your mistress". The girl called back, "Nah, my mistress was buried today". She couldn't understand what was happening, as she could see a figure in white, and thought she was seeing a ghost. Alarmed, she ran to her master and asked him to go to the window, which he did, and could recognise the voice calling to him. He opened the door and a joyful reunion followed. The Editor, Johnson Walker of the Halifax Guardian, discovered that Mary Hague lived on after this event and had even given birth to another child in the years following this frightening occurrence. Not many women could claim to have given birth after their own death. Although in later years, her husband and some of their children were buried in the vault, she was not. Her daughter was married in Preston, so possibly Mary was buried there, away from the awful people of Halifax who tried to bury her alive.

A sexton was responsible for the care and maintenance of the burial ground as well as the digging of graves. Many were stonemasons who carved memorials and also tolled the funeral bell. For these tasks and others and also for each funeral, he would receive a fee, which varied. The cost was higher for a burial inside the church, than in the churchyard. Responsibilities varied and Joseph Rothera who was sexton at Halifax in 1758, was paid two shillings to keep boys from breaking windows around the church. Joe Binns, sexton at Halifax some 50 years later in 1805, received £2 and 50 shillings a year and a further £2 and 2 shillings for sweeping the church. He was 80 years old at the time. In Halifax there were additional grave-diggers and an under sexton, with records going back to 1620. Mark Nichol served for about 30 years in Halifax in this role and died in 1858. He lived in the Isle of Man Yard, which is now Matawan car park. The most well-known sexton in our area was John Brown of Howarth, who in the early 1800's travelled around, conveying various monuments from Halifax to other towns for the local sculptor, Joseph Leyland.

By 1851, many other places of worship had their own graveyards. By the 1500's burials averaged around 290 yearly, with some years being exceptionally higher. Some churchyards became full. At this time life expectancy was short, and not counting child mortality, the average age of death was 51 for both men and women, if they had reached the age of 20.

What about the cost of funerals? Here are some statistics. In 1707, one pound was received from Christopher Marshall for burials in the Halifax Parish Church of six persons – Grace Suggen, Nicholas Batley, Sarah Winemansoul, Thomas Binns, Frances Priestley and a child, William Chamberlain. Six burials at 3 shillings and four pence each wasn't very expensive. In Elland church warden's accounts in 1747, show fees for the cost of two burials in the church choir, Mrs Dorothy Ismay and her child, to be 6 shillings and 8 pence. The same amount was charged for Joseph Dyson's wife and also Abraham Dyson, the rate seeming to be the same around the area. Charges were made in church warden's accounts for 'burying towels', 'sixpence per yard and thread three shillings and sixpence to include the making also'. These 'towels' appear to have been used to support the corpse in transport, in some way.

Cornelius Ashford, a weaver from Ovenden tells us in his diaries that he saw ten graves open at Halifax churchyard on Sunday, 29 December 1782. Nine of them were for children. During a smallpox epidemic that year in Halifax, 110 children had been interred there

in four weeks. In 1867 two men from Leeds, John Smith and a Mr Backhouse were employed as painters in Woodside, Boothtown. On 17 October, John Smith applied for leave as his wife had died. In sympathy, his employer and workmates collected more than five shillings for him and he was seen drinking round the town to comfort himself, before leaving Halifax to return to Leeds. Returning a few days later, he told his workmates of the grief caused him, by his wife's funeral and produced a smart funeral card showing angels and with the inscription:

‘Farewell my husband and children dear,  
I am not dead just sleeping here.  
As I am now so you must be,  
prepare for death and follow me’.

You may have come across similar sentiments. Strangely, some two days later, when John Smith had returned to Halifax, his employer Backhouse was in Leeds and was shocked to see Mrs Harriet Smith, supposedly dead, but walking round town alive. She had not departed this life at all. He was furious that he and other employees had given Smith money, for the funeral and leave from his work. Mr Backhouse returned home and had Smith hauled before the magistrates, where he was found to have obtained money by false pretences and was sentenced to three months hard labour.

Halifax Parish Church graveyard was closed 31 May 1861, and as there was no municipal cemetery, Stoney Royd was opened. In June 1853, the funeral of Ben Rushton the veteran local chartist occurred, a humble but very revered man. There were reputedly 10,000 people who attended, perhaps exaggerated, but certainly a great many.

We can't always believe what we read in the paper and so it was in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Edwards bookshop, famous throughout the country, stood in the red hall, where the Halifax Bank stands today. The owner was William Edwards. In 1784, the London Gentleman's magazine printed an obituary informing that – ‘in Halifax Yorkshire, on 11 March in his 61<sup>st</sup> year, Mr Edwards, bookseller of that town died’. In the next issue a correction was announced saying ‘Mr Edwards bookseller of Halifax, is not dead as mentioned in our last edition, and we will use more caution in inserting articles from country newspapers’. Edwards lived on for a further 24 years.

From Anne Lister's diaries, we hear that Jonathan Walsh was buried at 4am on the 18 February 1823, and according to his Will was

buried in the corner of one of his fields at Coldwell Farm, where his wife had been interred some years earlier. This was unusual, as by law everyone had to be buried in a churchyard, in consecrated ground. He was a wealthy, but very eccentric wool merchant and referred to as 'cat market' in the town, the inference being that he didn't keep himself very clean. His speech was so coarse and objectionable that Dr Coldhurst the Halifax vicar would run out of his way to escape his tongue, as Walsh took great objection to the clergy, not liking them at all. He had had a vault made for himself when he resided at Coldwell Hill, and when he died at Horton Street he was taken to Southowram, to be buried by candlelight. He had only illegitimate offspring and was buried as far from the grave of his wife as possible, although in the same field, which sounds interesting. She was buried near the back of Upper Place adjacent to Wakefield Gate.

In 1896 quarrying had begun in that very field, and workmen found a carefully constructed vault containing a decayed coffin, with a brass plate with the inscription – Jonathan Walsh born 1741, died 11 February 1823. Ann Lister recorded in her diary some years later, that this was reported to the police and that hundreds of people visited the site, readily paying a fee of tuppence to the quarry owners to view the vault and its contents.

Were Quakers buried standing upright? Oliver Heyward, the parson from Northowram who kept such good records, says that on the 28 October 1684, Captain Taylor's wife of Brighouse was buried in their garden head upwards, standing upright, by her husband and daughter who were Quakers. While not wanting to criticise Oliver Heyward, he was biased in certain ways. He did not like Quakers for instance. However, Captain Thomas Taylor who had fought in the Parliament army in the Civil War, became a Quaker in the 1650's, even entertaining George Fox the founder of the society, at his Brighouse home. Taylor and some of his family were later interred in his own grounds at Brighouse, their gravestones being rediscovered in the 1800's. Some are now in the Quaker meeting house at Huddersfield. The query of whether Quakers bury their dead upright is uncertain, as tomb inscriptions refer to 'here lies'.

The Moravians at Fullneck are said to bury their dead 'upright', a possible explanation could be that they use very small tombstones. Guides at Fullneck explain this by saying that 'perhaps we dug a very deep hole vertically and popped people in upright'. Explained jokingly or perhaps true?

Two of the children of Captain and Mrs Taylor, who died in infancy were buried at Elland St Mary's in 1662, and were recorded as Quakers in the Elland burial registers. The oldest grave cover at Halifax Parish church, lost for years was rediscovered in 1878/1879, when the church was restored. Experts have dated it to around 1150, possibly earlier. It also shows that the wool trade was going on in Halifax earlier than had been thought.

It was quite usual for wealthy people to erect a chantry chapel in memory of themselves or their families and for a priest to say Mass for their departed souls after death. Several chapels were built at Halifax, the last two being the Rokesby and Holdsworth side chapels, dating from around 1530.

With so many burials going on, it became common practise to reuse graves, and in 1626 vicar Robert Clay 'turned out' the charnel house there. Bones were simply taken out and stored under the east end of the church, now part of the music room and vicar's vestry. Accounts for that year, show that two large graves were dug for the purpose and the space turned into a vestry and panelled library. In 1691, another hole was dug at the back of the church, at a cost of £2.10.11 pence, showing that the bones were building up again.

Drinking at funerals could get out of hand. At the funeral of William Widowdean of Crosshills in 1680, Dr Hook the vicar and Mr Lambert his lecturer, while discussing 'monsters, and the punishing of sins and God', and drinking at the same time, fell out and Dr Hook was heard to shout, that Mr Lambert should 'shed out his bowels'. Modern equivalent sayings exist!

Grave robbers on 20 February 1686, stole Grace Akroyd aged 80, buried at Coley on the 17 February. On 2 January 1736, John Coggan was stolen from his grave at Sowerby, and this time the sexton was involved along with others, and the body made into a skeleton. Atheists, we are shown from records were buried in consecrated ground, which seems surprising.

Politics became involved with funerals sometimes. In April 1812, you may recall, Luddites attacked the mill belonging to William Cartwright at Liversedge. Amongst those involved in the attack was a cropper from Halifax, named Samuel Hartley. He was 24, an unmarried man who was a private in the militia and had been under Cartwright's command, when Cartwright lived in Halifax. During the attack, Cartwright was shot and badly wounded and died from his injuries. He was brought back to Halifax for burial, his family want-

ing him interred at the former South Parade Methodist chapel.

Reluctantly permission was given for the burial to go ahead. The minister J. Base Bunting fearing trouble, wouldn't conduct the service himself and made sure a junior minister was available to do it. This angered the crowd, as they felt that as the young man had given his life in expressing his right to protest and was being treated badly. The funeral went ahead, with ructions and trouble inside, and the people following the funeral procession wore white crepe armbands, many having to stand outside the chapel, the crowd being so great. William Cartwright, the mill owner in the Spen Valley was a Halifax man himself, who had been born and baptised there. Some of his children were buried at the Halifax Parish Church, although he was buried at Liversedge.

There are strange tales of burials. One being recorded in the records of Luddenden Dean Methodist was the leg of Ambrose Patrick being buried there, although we don't know any of the circumstances. Suicides were not permitted to be buried in consecrated ground and were usually buried at crossroads, although records show instances of such burials in a churchyard. It appeared to be at the discretion of the vicar of the church.

Early in 1859, workmen cutting a drain at the bottom of Parkinson Lane came across some human bones. Edward Johnson Walker, the Editor of the Halifax Courier decided to investigate. Older inhabitants in the area recalled hundreds of spectators following a coffin, flanked by special constables, being buried there and no service being read over it. Walker found reports in the Leeds Intelligence that in 1792 a Halifax woman had procured and taken poison and died in great agony. He tracked down inquest records, showing that Elizabeth Gill was the lady, and it was she who was buried at the crossroads. It showed that this was still happening as late as the 1790s.

From Anne Lister's diaries, we hear about funeral customs. In November 1817, her family bought mourning rings for people attending a family funeral, at a cost of about 30 shillings. Rings for both ladies and gentlemen were purchased, to be worn in memory of the deceased. The ladies' rings were to include a tiny window, through which a small amount of the deceased's hair could be seen. Black scarves were purchased sometimes, for the same purpose. Professional mourners, known as mutes sometimes accompanied the funeral procession, carrying large staves draped in black crepe. For example, Oliver Twist was employed as a mute in the famous book.

Only the wealthy could afford these extras at a funeral. The burial vault of the Listers of Shibden Hall is at the west end of the south chapel. Along with several coaches on display at Shibden Hall is a fine horse drawn funeral hearse. Edibles were handed round at funeral services, where they had little packets of biscuits known as 'arvil'.

In 1858, records show that a troupe of Chinese jugglers were employed to perform at the Piece Hall. One of them, an Asian man noted to have been an opium smoker, died at the pub they were staying at, and was buried in the parish graveyard in 1857. This seems strange for the time, but in 1868 another troupe of Asian performers from Calcutta gave an acrobatic show at the theatre at Wards End. They excited much interest, parading through town in their exotic costumes. Some were staying at the Dyers Arms in Mount Street, where one of them Budal Olassi aged 75, fell ill and died. His sons wished the funeral to take place immediately and for his body to be burnt, as was their custom, but our laws did not permit this at that time. No coffin was used and the body was embalmed and wrapped in grey calico. The procession went from the Dyers Arms to Stoneyroyd. At the graveside the Asian group performed a ritual and cast the body into the grave and covered it with leaf mould. They left for the night and the following day, returned once more and sitting with their backs to the chasm, smoked their pipes again. Then the grave was filled in. It was noted that they had fasted on the previous day, but now ate to excess at the graveside.



#### INGHAM Y-DNA

David Pugh-Clarke wants to let West Yorkshire Inghams know about his recently formed Family Tree DNA surname group - Ingham Y-DNA.

It is administered by himself (an illegitimate Anglo-Indian Ingham) and Dr George R Ingham (USA).

Enquiries to: [editor@cfhsweb.com](mailto:editor@cfhsweb.com)

## **Talk Summarisers needed !**

I am sure that one of the reasons that you look forward to reading your quarterly Scrivener is to be able to enjoy the talks that we have at our monthly meetings, albeit second-hand.

As you can imagine, there is a fair amount of work involved in getting these talks into a format that can easily be published in the journal.

The first step is to record the talk as it is given, which we do before sending it to a professional transcriber to be typed up, word for word. As this is relatively expensive, we don't think that we can justify paying her also to condense it into a "summary" ready for publication. Typically, she types 6-7000 words and we need to condense it down to no more than 3000 words.

We have a small team of members who do an admirable job in carrying out this summarising, but we really need to take some pressure off them by expanding the team. So we are asking for more volunteers to come forward to carry out some of the summary work. The more we have on the team, the less frequently each person has to do it !

There are 10 talks per year and not every speaker allows us to record, so a team of 6 people would mean that a summary would be needed from each person less than once every 6 months.

As I am sure you realise, many speakers repeat themselves & use a number of examples to illustrate a point, when only one is really needed. Also, the spoken word is generally more verbose than a written statement of the same thing. Consequently, it is relatively straightforward to bring the number of words down to the required 3000.

All you need is to be able to receive an MSWord document as an E-Mail attachment & then summarise that either on to a separate document, mostly using "cut & paste", or to amend the initial document as you see fit.

I hope that there will be some of you that feel that you can contribute to what is an important element of your Society's operation. If you want to help, please E-Mail me, Peter Lord at [systems@cfhsweb.com](mailto:systems@cfhsweb.com) & I will send you more detailed guidance & then a talk to summarise as soon as there is one available.

**Peter Lord - Systems Coordinator**

## **General Register Office (GRO) Certificates on line**

The GRO has launched a further Pilot Test of certificate data in pdf format effective from today 12th October 2017. The announcement appears on their website at -

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

but details are included below -

### **General Register Office (GRO) - PDF Extended Pilot**

The GRO is piloting a service from 12 October 2017 to provide portable document format (PDF) copies of digitised historical birth and death records. The pilot will run for a minimum of 3 months to enable GRO to assess the demand for this service over a prolonged period.

Applications for each PDF cost £6, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference.

England and Wales records which are available as PDFs in this extended pilot include:

Births: 1837 –1916

Deaths: 1837 –1957

Note: A PDF is not a certificate and has no “evidential” value, and therefore a certificate is required for official purposes, e.g. applying for a passport, driving licence or giving notice of marriage.

## **Lichfield Record Office**

.... will close to the public on 1 January 2018. In January and February the archive collections will be prepared for transfer to Stafford, and the move will take place in March. Work will continue in Stafford in April to locate the collections and to update our online catalogue. Some collections will be held at the Service's outstore in Stafford. Where this is the case the catalogue will show that 48 hours' notice is required. This is also currently the case for some collections held by Staffordshire Record Office. Staff will also receive training about the collections, so that they can provide appropriate advice to enquirers. The collections will be fully available for consultation in May 2018. For further detail contact:

[staffordshire.archives@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:staffordshire.archives@staffordshire.gov.uk).

**CFHS Talk ~ May 2017**  
**IN THE STEPS OF THE BRONTËS**  
**by TREVOR MOODY**

One tends to associate the Brontë family with Haworth, but they also spent time in other places. The idea for this interesting talk came from Eddie Flintoff's film, 'In the Brontës' Footsteps', in which some of the journeys undertaken by them were retraced in walks along the Brontë trail in West Yorkshire to places such as Thornton, Rawdon, 'Shirley country', Hartshead and Dewsbury.

Two books worth reading about the family include 'The Brontës' by Brian Wilks and 'The Life of Charlotte Brontë' by Elizabeth Gaskell; the latter being a biography packed with factual letters and details of the family. These books can be downloaded electronically on to a computer, Kindle or I-pad.

The story begins with the birth of Patrick Brontë in 1777 in a small village in Co Down, Northern Ireland. He was one of ten children and to supplement the family income he became apprenticed to a blacksmith and then to a linen weaver. He grew to become over six feet tall. He was self-taught and as the local priests perceived he was an intelligent lad, they provided him with an education and when Patrick was sixteen they appointed him as a master at the local school. He held this position for eleven years, during which time he was educated in the classics. Patrick's talent was recognised by the Rev Tighe, a friend of William Wilberforce and they sponsored Patrick's application to go to university.

With assistance from William Wilberforce, Patrick was accepted at St John's College at Cambridge University as a sizer. His fees were paid, but to meet his expenses he had to 'fag' to other well-off students. Can you imagine what it would have been like for a young man who had never been away from Ireland, to find himself in a place like Cambridge? Patrick worked hard and enjoyed attending college and chapel. He maintained his place in the top grade and won several awards. Whilst there, Patrick changed his surname from Brunt to Brontë. He was interested in military campaigns and Admiral Nelson, one of his heroes, had taken the title Duke of Brontë.

Patrick obtained a BA degree in 1806, took Holy Orders in the Church of England and was appointed as curate at St Mary's in Weathersfield, near Braintree, Essex where he stayed for three years. By this time Patrick had grown to six feet and three inches

tall, with red hair and the gift of the gab. He became engaged to Mary Burder, a farmer's daughter. It was suggested to Patrick that he ought to establish himself before getting married, so he broke off the engagement which caused some consternation in the Burder family.

Patrick then moved to All Saints Church in Wellington, Shropshire, which at that time was highly industrialised with coal mines and iron works. William Morgan and John Fennell were also appointed as curates in the town and they were both to have an influence on Patrick's life

William Morgan, an evangelist, relocated to Dewsbury in West Yorkshire. He encouraged Patrick to join him there by telling him that there were many souls to save. Patrick applied for an appointment at Dewsbury and moved there in 1809. Two years later, Patrick became curate at St Peter's Church in Hartshead. He was hopeful of becoming the chaplain at Kirklees Hall, the residence of the Armitage family who had their own chapel, but he was not offered this position. Patrick's strong Irish brogue may have been a handicap. There is a legend that Robin Hood spent his last days at the gatehouse to the Armitage estate. The place where Robin's arrow landed at the top of the hill, 600 yards away, is said to be the place where he is buried.

Patrick's friend, Rev John Fennell was appointed as headmaster of Woodhouse Grove in West Yorkshire, a Wesleyan boarding school for sons of ministers and preachers. He invited Patrick to examine the boys every week in religious instruction. The school was twelve miles from Hartshead and Patrick made this journey regularly on foot. It was at this school where Patrick met Maria Branwell, John Fennel's niece. Maria was a small slender girl who came from a middle-class family in Penzance, Cornwall. Following the death of her parents she had moved to Woodhouse Grove school to be with her uncle.

It was a whirlwind romance for Patrick and Maria, with Patrick proposing marriage during their visit to Kirkstall Abbey in 1811. Meanwhile, Patrick's friend William Morgan, who had become a curate in Bradford, proposed to John Fennel's other niece. The couples obtained special licences and arranged a double wedding in Guiseley church in 1812, with William and Patrick officiating at each other's marriage ceremonies.

Patrick and Maria spent their honeymoon in Ireland and began their

married life in Langley Bush Park. They then rented Clough House in Hightown, near Liversedge, where their two eldest daughters, Maria and Elizabeth were born. A blue plaque over the door of this building commemorates their births.

Patrick was a sociable and entertaining individual who was fond of his ale. He frequented the local Shears Inn where the Luddites met, as this was the area where they were active. Patrick learnt a great deal about these men and their plans to smash the new machines that jeopardised their work.

A while later Patrick and his friend Thomas Atkinson requested permission to exchange their livings. Thomas wanted to move nearer to Huddersfield, so he transferred to Hartshead and Patrick and his young family moved to Thornton, where they lived for several years. The old Bell Chapel in Thornton was in a dilapidated state and Patrick organised the repairs. Four more Brontë children were born in Thornton, and were named, Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne.

A month after their youngest child, Anne was born in January 1820, Patrick was offered the position as perpetual in Haworth. In March that year, Patrick took his ailing wife Maria, their six children and belongings in seven horse-drawn carts, along the turnpike road from Thornton to Haworth. The final part of their journey passed by Haworth Old Hall, which in former days had been a farmhouse. As they walked up the steep hill, with ridges to prevent the horses from slipping, they could not fail to notice the dirt and unpleasant smells associated with the insanitary conditions in the village, which was in contrast to their civilised living they had enjoyed in Thornton. They journeyed past the church and to their new home at the Parsonage at the top of the hill.

Maria was unwell at the time of their move to Haworth. She became seriously ill in May 1821 and it was thought she had uterine cancer. Her unmarried sister, Elizabeth Branwell travelled from Penzance to nurse her. Following Maria's death in September 1821, Elizabeth decided to move permanently to Haworth and act as housekeeper. She devoted herself for the next twenty-one years, until her death in 1842, to help rear the six Brontë children and look after Patrick. Elizabeth never returned home to Penzance.

Haworth was a small industrial village with very few educational facilities. Patrick wanted his children to be educated and in 1824

he took his two eldest daughters, Maria and Elizabeth, to the Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge, fifty miles away. He took Charlotte and Emily there a few months later. Charlotte described the grim and unhealthy aspects of the school in her novel, 'Jane Eyre'. The daily routine consisted of rising to wash at dawn, with six girls using the same bowl; one and a half hours in prayer, fifteen minutes for breakfast which consisted of porridge, followed by three hours of lessons from nine o'clock. In the afternoon, recreation including exercise in the garden, lessons until five o'clock, a short break for a slice of bread and a coffee, then half an hour for recreation, water and oatcake for supper; prayers and bedtime, with two girls sharing a bed.

Many of the schoolchildren caught typhoid following an outbreak of the disease at the school. Maria Brontë, aged eleven, a delightful, bright girl with a personality like her mother's, became ill and returned to Haworth where she died. Her younger sister, Elizabeth, aged ten, also became ill and returned home to die. Patrick withdrew Charlotte and Emily from the school and took them home.

Aunt Elizabeth Branwell provided the basis of an education for the Brontë children and their father taught them Latin and introduced them to Greek. In 1831, Charlotte went to boarding school at Roe Head school, now opposite Whiteley's garden centre in Mirfield, where she made friends with Ellen Nussey and Mary Taylor. The school, run by Miss Wooller moved to Heald's house on Dewsbury moor and in 1837 Charlotte was offered a position there as a teacher, but she was not happy there.

Charlotte was only 4ft and 9 inches tall, small and slightly built, like her mother. She wore glasses and was regarded as a very shy, retiring person of plain appearance, although clever, ambitious and strong minded. In later life, when associating with well-to-do people, Charlotte maintained her reserve but she could argue in a determined way if she felt she had something to contribute to a discussion.

Emily resembled her father. She was tall and strong and the first of the Brontë children to leave home. She obtained a position as a teacher at Miss Patrick's school in Southowram but she became homesick and returned home after six months. Whilst at Southowram, Emily would have attended St Anne in the Grove church and passed close to High Sunderland hall, a gothic mansion with grotesque carvings above the main door. This building may have provided the inspiration for her novel, 'Wuthering Heights', in which

Emily mentions '*before passing the threshold I paused to admire a quantity of grotesque carvings lavished over the front especially above the principal door above which among a wilderness of crumbling griffins and shameless little boys, I detected the date 1500*'.

Emily would also have visited the Lister family at Shibden Hall.

Anne was frail, asthmatic and deeply religious. Like her sister Charlotte she was of slight build. She was a determined young lady who became governess to the Ingham family at Blake Hall in Mirfield. Her experiences of her treatment as a governess are recalled in her novels, 'Wildfell Hall' and 'Agnes Grey'.

In 1839, Charlotte became governess to the wealthy mill-owning Sidgwick family at Stone Gappe Hall, twelve miles from Haworth. During this time, she accompanied the family who were visiting friends around Nidderdale and stayed at Swarcliffe House. Charlotte was treated very badly by the Sidgwick family and only stayed with them for two months.

The Victorian age began in 1838 with the coronation of Victoria, a year after her accession to the throne. Railway mania encouraged tracks to be laid across the country at a rate of thousands of miles every year, mainly to transport goods and materials but also with some carriages for passengers. The Leeds to York railway line opened in 1839 and Charlotte and Emily requested their father's permission to travel to Bridlington for a holiday. It was unusual at that time for young girls to travel and stay away from home on their own. The family insisted they stay with friends at Easton farm, near Bridlington. This was an unforgettable experience for Charlotte, who fell in love with the sea and the coast. Whilst she was there she visited the Poigntons, a local well-to-do family.

Branwell, like his sisters was very bright and an accomplished artist. He enjoyed telling stories and in 1840 he obtained a position as tutor to the Postlethwaite family. This appointment only lasted for two months as the children claimed that instead of teaching them, he made them draw and told them stories. Branwell then became an assistant clerk at Sowerby Bridge station for the new railway, but this position didn't last long as he was not very good at book keeping and he lost this job.

Anne was the only one of the Brontë children to maintain a lengthy period of employment. She was a governess for five years at the Rev Robinson's family home in Salt Green, near York and during

this time she gleaned much material for her books. Her journey there would have been by coach and train. Branwell was employed as a tutor for young Edmund Robinson on the recommendation of Anne and initially he fitted in very well, but was asked to leave. The Robinson family were members of the social set who enjoyed spending the season in Scarborough and Anne delighted in these visits to the coast. The family also mixed with the Dawneys, landed gentry who lived at Beningbrough Hall. Charlotte and Anne visited Norton Conyers, just north of Ripon where they were told of the legend about a mad woman who had been confined to the attic.

Scarborough attracted many people from all over England, who believed the mixture of spa and sea water had magical qualities. The Robinson family stayed at Wood's lodgings. The town was on the north cliff side and the south side was where the well to do people lived. The two areas were connected by the 'penny bridge', which led to the Grand Hotel, which opened in 1867.

Charlotte found employment as governess for the White family in Rawdon. They were supportive towards Charlotte's ambition to establish her own school and suggested she would need to develop her knowledge of foreign languages. They best way to do this would be for her to study in Europe.

Charlotte decided to go to Brussels and Patrick accompanied her and her sister Emily on their journey. They travelled by train from Leeds to London and made their journey across the English Channel. The girls began their education at Pensionnat Hegér, where there was a garden which Charlotte described in her books.

Charlotte and Emily returned to Haworth following the news that their Aunt Elizabeth Branwell had died in 1842. Emily decided to remain in Haworth to help with housekeeping at the Parsonage as she had been homesick in Brussels. Charlotte returned to her studies in Brussels. She had fallen in love with her tutor Constantin Hegér, but he was a married man with four children. Charlotte returned to Haworth and described him in her book, 'The Professor', which caused him some amusement.

In 1846, Patrick travelled to Manchester, accompanied by Charlotte to undergo surgery on his eyes. He was operated on, without anaesthetic, to remove cataracts. That same year, the three sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne published their books under the pseudonyms of Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell. Readers were inquisitive to know who had written these books, assuming it was a male author.

The sisters received a letter from Smith & Elder, the publisher and Charlotte and Anne immediately set off for London to introduce themselves.

Branwell died of tuberculosis in September 1848 and Emily died a few months later in December. Anne also became ill and her dying wish was to visit Scarborough to see the sea for one last time. Charlotte and her friend Ellen Nussey accompanied Anne to Scarborough. They travelled via Leeds to York where they stayed at the George hotel and visited the Minster. Anne died in Scarborough in May 1849 and was buried there. Afterwards, Charlotte and Ellen travelled to Filey and stayed at Cliff House for a few days before returning home.

Charlotte published her book, 'Shirley' in 1849, which was a remarkable success. It was based on the events of the Luddites and the stories that her father had recounted to her and her siblings from the time when he had been a curate in Hartshead, many years earlier. Charlotte included descriptions in her books of places and people she knew, including Oakwell Hall in Birstall and her school friend, Mary Taylor's family, who lived at the Red House in Gomersal.

At the height of her fame, Charlotte visited Mr Smith, her publisher in London on several occasions. He introduced her to William Thackeray and others and he took her to the Great Exhibition in 1851. He invited Charlotte to go to Edinburgh and Melrose Abbey in Scotland and to the home of her favourite author, Walter Scott.

Charlotte also received invitations to visit Lord Kay Shuttleworth's home at Padiham, near Burnley and his home in Ambleside in the Lake District. He was patron of the arts and introduced Charlotte to several influential people including Elizabeth Gaskell. It was through this friendship that a few years later, Patrick Bronte co-operated with Elizabeth Gaskell about Charlotte's biography.

In 1852, Patrick's curate, Arthur Bell Nicholls proposed marriage to Charlotte. Charlotte initially refused Arthur and he left Haworth. Charlotte later came to realise what a caring person he was and she agreed to marry him in June 1854. Patrick refused to attend his daughter's wedding and Charlotte was given away by her school-teacher friend, Miss Wooller, with her friend Ellen Nussey as bridesmaid.

Charlotte had a weak chest and caught a cold in the initial stages of

pregnancy. She died in March 1855. Arthur remained in Haworth and cared for Patrick, who had a strong constitution and died in 1861, aged 84. Despite Haworth being an extremely unhealthy place, Patrick had outlived his wife by forty years and all six of his children. Arthur returned to Ireland, remarried and died at the age of 88 years.

Many of the buildings, houses, churches etc associated with the Brontës no longer exist. Some places have been redeveloped and replaced by housing and the Red House museum has now closed to the public. The Brontë children made several attempts to leave home but always rebounded back to the Parsonage in Haworth. After travelling in the footsteps of the Brontës, we can now return figuratively to the Parsonage in Haworth, which is open most days for you to visit.

See website [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk) for details of opening times of Brontë Parsonage Museum and shop.



### 17th Century 'Census'

In a welcome move, the Parliamentary Archive has announced that it will digitise its Protestation Returns. This is excellent news for ancestry researchers, as these documents are effectively a 17th-century English census.

By order of the House of Commons, all adult men were asked to swear an oath of allegiance to the Protestant religion in 1642. Their names were duly inscribed in a list in each parish, and the list sent back to Parliament. The Returns survive for about a third of English counties.

In an exciting new step, the Parliamentary Archive is now testing an online search tool (<http://archivesmapsearch.labs.parliament.uk/>), for locating Protestation Returns. Eventually, you will be able to click through to a digital copy of the Return, once you've found it exists using the map tool.

Peter Calver of LostCousins (<https://www.lostcousins.com/>) has helpfully put together a list of all the digitised Returns that have been completed or are in progress, which you can browse and refer back to as more Returns are digitised.

## School Logs - here at last !!

As you will have read in the November Newsletter, the CD for the School Logs for Calderdale East & South is now available & our Transcription Team are busy on the schools for Central & North Calderdale.

This is an unusual set of data for you to investigate, and certainly the first of its kind from Yorkshire. We hope that you will have a look at this information, which you can do in one of three ways :-

- By using the Transcription Index on the Society website to search out any of your ancestors who may be listed in one of the schools that we have transcribed. As members, you can request details of any entries free of charge, through our Search Coordinator.
- By visiting our Research Room in Brighouse Library, when you can browse through all the records, as well as looking at the original Log Book images.
- By purchasing the CD through the usual channels, or getting the download from [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

This article is to help you interpret the data that is on the files, so that you can get the best out of it.

The data that is available is under 3 categories :-

1. **Head Teachers.** This lists the Head Teachers for all the schools involved (16 on this CD), their start & finish dates at the school, where known, and any useful notes about them.
2. **School Closures.** This lists, for each school and in total, the occasions that the school was closed, the dates of closure & for what reason. Local Pig Fairs seem to have been a popular reason !!
3. **Named Individuals.** This is far & away the most important set of information. This lists the name of every person mentioned in the school Log Book, along with :-
  - Page No. of the Log Book
  - Date of the entry
  - Surname & Forename of the individual
  - Person Type (eg Teacher, Pupil etc)

- Event Type (eg Teaching, Absence, Inspection etc.)
- A Description of up to 100 characters to explain the event
- Any other relevant Note
- In a small minority of cases, their abode

There are number of things that researchers need to be aware of when looking at this data.

**Surname & Forename.** The surname is as you would expect, but the authors of the Logs, nearly always the Head Teacher, were often inconsistent in referring to people by name. So you can get, for Jane Smith, entries for Jane Smith, J Smith, & Miss Smith.

Every effort has been made to rationalise these, but, due to the many people transcribing this data & the fact that some people (eg Inspectors) feature in more than one school, it has not always been possible to match entries with full names. For example, particularly with common names, John Smith & Mr Smith may be shown carrying out different roles, so we cannot be sure that they are the same person.

As a result, when you are looking for the name of someone you are researching you need to be careful to search not just by forename, but by forename initial & also by title (eg. Mr, Miss etc). In the case of women, where we have a forename it will be given &, if known, her marital status will be shown at the start of the Description field.

**Person Type.** We have tried to match the type of person with the known individual (eg Teacher). However, many people had multiple roles, particularly Board Members & WRCC officials, so it quite often happens that a named individual is shown as having different Person Types from one entry to the next.

Disappointingly, there are fewer entries about pupils than we would have liked. Head Teachers seem to have a habit of using phrases like "a Standard 3 boy was rescued from the lake after nearly drowning". Perhaps this was an early indication of Data Protection & Personal Privacy !! Happily, a few Head Teachers were not so reticent, so there are some interesting & entertaining entries from time to time.

**Description.** This field is limited to 100 characters, so it does not always use the exact wording from the original log. To read this, you need to look at the original image file of the relevant page.

**Head Teachers.** Individual entries for Head Teachers are a special case. If they are shown by name (eg in staff lists) there will be an entry for them. However, quite often they refer to themselves in the 1st person - "I examined Standard 3 today". These have not been included because, were we to have done so, the entries would be filled with inconsequential activities of no real use to a family researcher.

To get a feel for the Head Teacher & their influence on the school, you need to read the School Log in its entirety.

**Images of the original pages.** All the transcribers did their work from photographed images of the school Log pages. As a member of the Society, these are available to you, free of charge, through our Search Coordinator. So, if you find an entry of particular interest, or you want to see EXACTLY what was written for an event, you can E-Mail for a free copy of any set of pages - they come in sets of 20 pages. Simply send details to [search@cfhsweb.com](mailto:search@cfhsweb.com) listing :-

- School Name
- Page No.

and the relevant set of pages will be sent to you as an E-Mail attachment.

This is a special concession that we have from the West Yorkshire Archive Service. Any non-member purchasing a CD & wishing to see the image files has to contact WYAS & they may be provided, for a fee.

So, as you can see, much information can be obtained, in a number of ways, from this resource. We hope that you find these notes helpful in getting the best from our latest work. Our thanks are due to the Transcription Team who have worked to get this information ready & who are now working on the Central & North Calderdale schools for CD2. A final CD for West Calderdale will follow that.



## Wool Gathering

by Ann Cestor

We rear the sheep; we clip the wool.  
By gum, it dun't half smell!  
We clean it up with fullers' earth  
And water from the well.

We sort the wool and comb it out  
And wind it into tops.  
The noils go to the woollen mill;  
The mill wheel never stops.

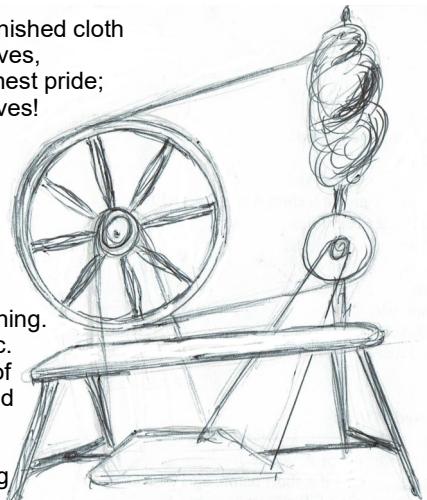
We dye the wool with many shades  
Of colours from the scores  
Of mosses, leaves and berries  
We gather from the moors.

In our cottage kitchens,  
Or in the spinning shed,  
With distaff or a jenny  
We twist it into thread.

We weave it into worsted,  
Then wash it. When that's done  
We stretch it on the tenter frame  
To dry it in the sun.

Then the shearman crop the nap,  
We women burl and mend.  
It's been a long and complex job;  
We've got there in the end.

We stack the bales of finished cloth  
Upon the clothiers' shelves,  
And feel the glow of honest pride;  
We've done it all ourselves!



**Fullers' earth** - an absorbent natural clay used to clean the wool.

**Water from the well** - the soft water in West Yorkshire lathers easily, and so washes the wool well.

**Tops** - balls of long fibres ready for spinning.

**Noils** - short fibres used to make felt etc.

**Distaff** - a cleft stick on which the balls of fibre are fixed, ready to twist and wind onto a spindle.

**Jenny** - Spinning Jenny - a machine, invented by Hargreaves, for spinning many threads at the same time.

**Worsted** - smooth material woven from the long woollen fibres.

**Tenter frame** - a frame for drying & bleaching the cloth in the sun.

**Shearman** - trimmed the uneven nap (raised threads) on the cloth.

**Burl & mend** - women, working at home, removed small knots or lumps (burls) in the cloth, and mended any imperfections.

**Clothiers** - merchants who bought & sold the finished pieces of cloth (in the Piece Hall).

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Surname	Location	County	Known	Known	Wanted	Wanted	Code
			from	to	from	to	
MALLINSON	SOYLAND	WRY	1800	Now	Start	1800	3820
FIRTH	SOYLAND	WRY	1800	1850	Start	1850	3820
BERRY	SOWERBY BRIDGE	WES	1791	1930	1700	1790	3833
TAME		HAL	1800			Now	3841
BOTTOMLEY	SHELF, BUTTERSHAW	YOR			1800	1939	3843
HODGSON	SHELF, BUTTERSHAW	YOR			1800	1900	3843
BOTTOMLEY	FARFIELD HOUSE	YOR			1816	1895	3843
BOTTOMLEY	MANORLEY HALL	YOR			1871	1939	3843
ASTIN	SKIRCOAT	WRY	1819	1871	Start	1880	3832
HEMINGWAY	LIGHTCLIFFE	WRY	1788	1841	Start	1850	3832
JENNINGS	HALIFAX	WRY	1769	1850	Start	1850	3832
GOODHEIRE	RASTRICK	WRY	1600	1780	1500	1900	3792

### New MI address list

3792	Ms R	Senior	ronisenior@hotmail.com
3820	Dr R	Mallinson	home@rogermallinson.me.uk
3832	Mrs M	Perfect	mperfect@gmx.co.uk
3833	Mr M J	Berry	lizandmikeberry@gmail.com
3841	Mr N	Temple	temps1964@gmail.com
3843	Mr A	Bottomley	andy@bottomley.com

### **Halifax British School**

Extracts from School Logs and other documents.  
Contributed by Mark Harrey

Nov 17 1871 following a dismal report commenting on many failures and the need to improve:

Improvement will be expected next year in the Boys School in Spelling and Arithmetic (Article 32b). The Master's Certificate cannot be issued until there are fewer failures in these subjects.

The Grant to the Girls' School is reduced by one tenth under Article 32(b) for faults in the instruction of the Infant Class. Unless a more favourable report is received next year My Lords may be under the necessity of withholding the Grant altogether under Article 17 (g)  
Good example of how grant is calculated in HxBrit2 at page 9

Apr 20 1874 Messers Whitworth's Mill ceased working. The Pupils attending the Boys' School, some 67 in number, nearly all left owing to their obtaining work at Mills that send children to other schools.

Jul 27 1874 find the opening of a new Board School, Queen's Road, has taken several boys away.

Jan 31 1876 the Assistant Mr T Norris – requested to send in his resignation for refusing to have the work of his Class examined and not doing his duties during the working of the school.

Feb 11 1876 T Norris left School every day at 12 am & 4.30 pm whether work was done or not.

Feb 18 1876 Mr T Norris, the Assistant, apologised for his conduct of the two previous weeks, and promised to do all his duties so long as he remains.

Mar 3 1876 Mr A Fisher commenced as Assistant. His predecessor [Norris] paid off on Monday [Feb 28]

Nb the 1881 Census shows Tom Norris in Southowram as School-master

### **Halifax British School**

Aka Albion Street British School.

A school was founded by subscription as a charity school for the poor of all religious denominations and originally opened in rented

premises on 11th March 1813.

In 1818, the schoolroom – to educate the poor of all denominations – was built on Cabbage Lane Field on land conveyed by William Kershaw where it accommodated about 350 boys and girls.

**It continued as a voluntary school until 1879 when the buildings were transferred to the Halifax School Board.**

The Halifax Mutual Improvement Society met here.

Masters & teachers at the School have included

Charles Middleton [1881]

Miss Mary Jane Thorburn [1881]

Miss Mary E. Port (infants) [1881]

See William Corke and Joseph Thorp below.

#### **Halifax School Board**

School Board set up in February 1871.

Recorded in 1874 at 30 Waterhouse Street, Halifax when **Robert Ostler** was Clerk.

On 20th July 1874, Queens Road Board School and Boothtown Board School, the first erected by the new School Board, were formally opened by **Mr Swallow**, the chairman.

Copley Council School was the last school built by the Board [1904].

**The final meeting of the Board was on 16th November 1903.**

#### **Corke, William**

[1804-1870] Born in Edenbridge, Kent.

Around 1835, he and his wife ran the Halifax British School at Great Albion Street.

He was a deacon at Sion Congregational Church, Wade Street [from 1845].

For 24 years, he served as secretary of the Halifax Sunday School Union, and then for 10 years as treasurer. He was involved in the jubilee gatherings of Sunday scholars and teachers at the Piece Hall.

He was enumerator for the census [1841] / the Halifax agent for The General Life & Fire Assurance Company [1850] / Registrar of Marriages for Halifax [1842, 1865]

**He died [16th September 1870] following a stroke, possibly brought on by an imminent inspection of his school.**

William, wife Eliza & daughter Hannah were buried at Lister Lane Cemetery [Plot Number 712].

**Thorp, Joseph**

[1803-1873] JP.

He was a Quaker / a Liberal / in the wool trade / one of the Trustees appointed under the Halifax Improvement Act [1823] / Chairman of the Halifax School Board / second President of The Halifax Temperance Society [1857] / President of The British Temperance League [1864-1866] / a supporter of the Ragged School / **President & Treasurer of the British School** / President of the Halifax Auxiliary Bible Society.

As a member of the temperance movement, he gave the drinking fountain in People's Park, and the drinking Fountain on Savile Park to the town [1869].

On 1st January 1866, he married Hannah Ingham.

In his latter years, he suffered from heart problems, and went to Llandudno, Wales for his health [August 1873].

He died in Llandudno [23rd September 1873] (aged 70).

His body was brought back to Halifax for burial.

He was buried at the Quaker Burial Ground, Halifax

Log: Sept 26, 1873 "went with the children to the funeral of J Thorp Esq – president of the school – on Friday afternoon"

1870

Mon:- Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>

I have found during the last two weeks, that the pupil-teachers continually neglect their work. To prevent this if possible - I have commenced a system of Registration of Marks "each day, using those adopted by the government.

This I have commenced at the end of the "Log Book"; so that all entries in regard to their lessons will be found there.

Tues:- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>

Pupil Teachers commence to keep "Journals" in which are required each day their marks for lessons.

#### HELP WANTED HARGREAVES

I have been researching the Hargr[e]aves family who lived in Blackwood, Sowerby and Warley before moving to Wakefield. Recently exploring the Blackwood area I found an ancient? religious dwelling with many gravestones opposite the house. Have the gravestones ever been looked at there and recorded do you know? They looked very ancient and were buried in the trees

As I live in York I have been unable to follow this up but certainly hope to do so in the near future. I have a Hargraves member of the family coming over from USA, whose ancestor emigrated from Wakefield in 1646 to Norfolk, Virginia, later this year and would like to visit Sowerby/Blackwood and Warley. And maybe Wakefield of course.

I would be most grateful if any light can be shed on this although I do recognise that there may not be any records for the period before 1646. Even the history of Blackwood itself would be interesting.

Elizabeth Whitmarsh (previously Elizabeth Powell) 3840

(You can reply via the editor - editor@cfhsweb.com)

## **CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**2018 SPRING MEETINGS ~ Thursdays 7:30pm.  
At The Shibden Room, North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax.**

**January 25th**

**Mary Twentyman ~ How do you know if you've got the right person?**

When making new discoveries in the search for our ancestors it's easy to get carried away and presume we're on the right track. Mary will give us some check lists to guide us and some pitfalls to avoid.

**February 22nd**

**Paul Kenny ~ Yorkshire Oddities.**

The beautiful Yorkshire countryside is dotted with many interesting and often bizarre follies. These and their fascinating origins are explored in this engaging talk, together with some of the "characters" the county has spawned over the centuries. From humble beginnings in Halifax, these include the rather eccentric Percy Shaw who went on to invent the Catseye reflective roadstud.

**March 22nd**

**Tony Foster ~ A Trip to Switzerland in 1916 : A little known aspect of WW I.**

This talk details a scheme organised by the British Red Cross Society & the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England to allow wives and mothers to visit their husbands/sons who had been POWs in Germany and now interned in Switzerland. A total of about 600 women made these trips between September 1916 and November 1917.

**April 26th**

**Annual General Meeting**

**May 24th**

**Cyril Pearce ~ Resistors (Communities of Resistance in 1914—1918 War).**

Our understanding of the extent and nature of anti-war sentiment in Britain during WW1 has been distorted by the propaganda stereotypes of the time and by its pre-occupation with the experiences of Conscientious Objectors (COs).

Cyril explains that research now suggests that opposition to the war extended beyond the COs and included elements of the Women's Movement and other anti-war alliances.

**View our website at [www.cfhsweb.com](http://www.cfhsweb.com)**

and visit

**Calderdale Family History Society's**

**RESEARCH ROOM**

**Brighouse Library  
Rydings Park, Halifax Rd., Brighouse, HD6 2AF**

**Tuesdays 1:30pm to 4:30pm & Thursdays 10:00am to 1:00pm**

**Open to both Members & Non-Members**

**Facilities include :-**

- **Searchable information on 4 computers.**
- **Fiches for all Calderdale C of E churches.**
- **6 Internet terminals, with access to Ancestry.com**  
**(Note—now increased from original 4 terminals)**
- **Wide range of books, journals, cuttings, etc.**

**For more information and bookings ring 07952-211986 during the hours given above.**

## **Huddersfield & District Family History Society**

If you have ancestors in the Kirklees area, which covers the towns of Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley, Holmfirth and surrounding villages, then why not contact our Society for help and advice.

We have a research room at the **Root Cellar, 33A Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5NW** and we are open at the following times on these days:

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday:</b>		<b>2 pm to 4.30 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>		<b>2 pm to 4.30 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>10 am to 12.30 pm</b>	<b>2 pm to 4.30 pm</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>		<b>2 pm to 4.30 pm</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>10.30 am to 1.00 pm</b>	
<b>Saturday:</b>		<b>2 pm to 4.30 pm</b>

**Our telephone number is 01484 859229** and details of all our activities and how to join can be found at **[www.hdfhs.org.uk](http://www.hdfhs.org.uk)**. You can also find us on Twitter and Facebook by searching for '**Huddersfield Family History Society**'.

## USEFUL CONTACTS AND SOURCES FOR RESEARCHING WEST YORKSHIRE ANCESTORS

**West Yorkshire Archive Service ~ [www.archives.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.archives.wyjs.org.uk)** (*This can be a good place to start to access the West Yorkshire Archive Catalogue*)

**Calderdale District Archives, (Registers, BTs, Census, etc. etc.)**

Calderdale Central Library, Northgate House, Northgate, Halifax HX1 1UN

Tel: +44 (0) 1422 392636 e-mail calderdale@wyjs.org.uk

**WYAS Headquarters, Newstead Road, Wakefield WF1 2DE (Registers, WRiding Registry of Deeds, Manorial Records etc.)**

Tel: +44 (0) 1924 305980 email : wakefield@wyjs.org.uk

**The Borthwick Institute ~ [www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr/](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr/)** (*Peculiar + PCY wills, BT's etc.*)

University of York, Heslington, YORK YO10 5DD

Tel: +44 (0) 1904 321166 email ~ link on website

**Calderdale Central Reference Library** (address as above) Tel: +44 (0) 1422 392631 e-mail [reference.library@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:reference.library@calderdale.gov.uk) (*local studies collection, newspapers, maps, trade directories, IGI, GRO indexes, census and parish register fiche, on-line Familysearch and Ancestry; research service offered.*)

**Weaver to Web ~ [www.calderdale.gov.uk/wtw/](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/wtw/)** The council maintains a website with a miscellany of information from the archives (*a wide range of photos, maps, census returns, parish registers, poll books, wills , etc., have been digitised to view online.*)

**Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion ~ <http://www.calderdalecompanion.co.uk>**  
(*Large collection of trivia, miscellaneous facts of people and places and other bits of local history about Halifax and Calderdale).*

All the Parish records transcribed by the Society are available to search (for a fee) on **FindMyPast.co.uk** (*In addition there are many other records available to search)*

West Yorkshire Parish Registers have been put online (for a fee) by the West Yorkshire Archives Service which can be accessed on **Ancestry.co.uk**. (*Again, many other useful records, for a fee)*

**[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)**

(*Thousands of records for free including the IGI and some census data*). LDS Family History Centres are invaluable for 'distance research'. Check local telephone directories.

**The National Archives ~ [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)** (*a wealth of data arising from public records, including BMD's, census and much much more*).

Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU Tel: +44 (0) 20 8876

**[www.direct.gov.uk/gro](http://www.direct.gov.uk/gro)** is the website of the general register office for everything concerning civil registration and to order certificates.

Consider subscribing to a periodical such as Family Tree Magazine or BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. Online sites such as **GenesReunited** and **LostCousins** may help you find relatives researching the same family.

## **LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS etc**

### **Forthcoming Events of Interest :-**

**The London Group of Yorkshire FHS.** Programme of events - 2018

17 March 2018	Debbie Kennett	Social Media for family historians
16 June 2018	Else Churchill	English Church Courts
22 September 2018	John Hanson	One Name One Place (May be changed)
17 November 2018	To be announced	

**Meetings held at the Society of Genealogists, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.**

Starting at 10.30am All welcome.

### **The Federation of Family History Societies**

Federation of Family History Societies' web site

[www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

This site has a wealth of links to events & information of interest to family historians. Find the EVENTS tab for a list of forthcoming events.

### **PEOPLES' HISTORY OF THE NHS**

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS is to be celebrated in 2018.

As a member of a family history group affiliated to the U3A, I have received this notification of a current survey.

A project from The University of Warwick is asking anyone who worked/ works for the NHS ,in any category of staff, to record their memories of the impact the service has had on them and to reflect on their experiences on working for the NHS since 1948.

Oral contributions are particularly valued.

All the information given will be encrypted and sent to the archive at the Modern Records Centre, all information will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The link to the relevant website is:-

<http://peopleshistorynhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/A4-NHS-Survey-Form-BLOG.pdf>

I do hope some of you may be able to contribute.

Margaret E. Williams (Mem. No. 3669)

*Calderdale Family History Society*  
*Incorporating Halifax and District*

**Officers and Co-ordinators of the Society**

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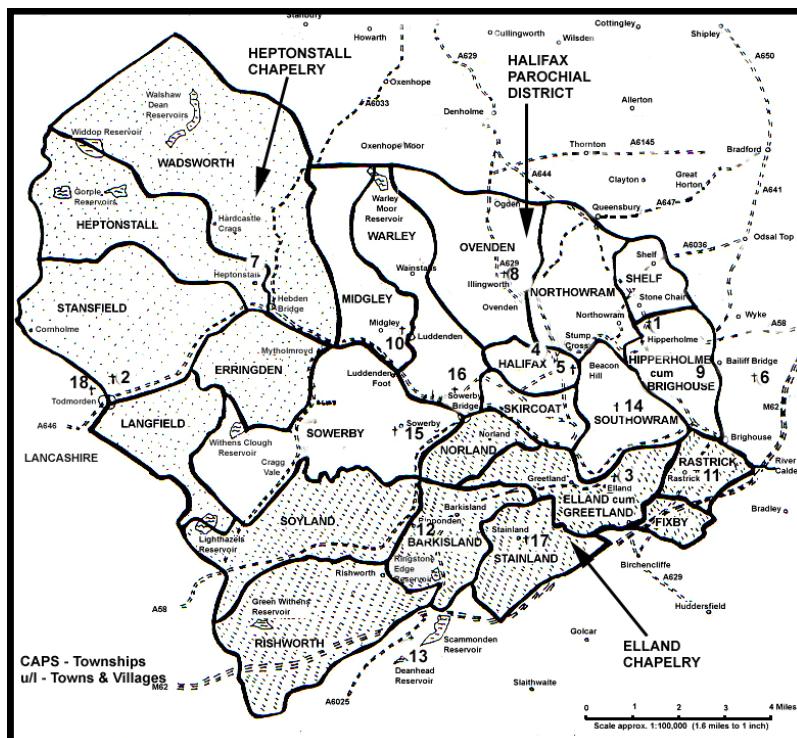
[RR Bookings and Information Tues pm/Thurs am 07952-211986]

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**The Society's Home Web Page on the Internet is**  
<http://www.cfhsweb.com>



# CHAPELRIES AND TOWNSHIPS OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF HALIFAX



CHURCH/CHAPEL	Registers begin	BAP.	MAR.**	BUR.
1. COLEY	St. John	1735	1745	1734
2. CROSS STONE	St. Paul	1678	1837	1678
3. ELLAND	St. Mary**	1559	1559	1559
4. HALIFAX	St. James (inc St Mary Rhodes St 1953)	1832	1837	nk
5. HALIFAX	St. John**	1538	1538	1538
6. HARTSHEAD	St. Peter	1612	1612	1612
7. HEPTONSTALL	St. Thomas**	1599	1593	1599
8. ILLINGWORTH	St. Mary	1695	1697	1695
9. LIGHTCLIFFE	St. Matthew	1703	1704	1704
10. LUDDENDEN	St. Mary	1653	1661	1653
11. RASTRICK	St. Matthew	1719	1839	1798
12. RIPPONDEN	St. Bartholomew	1684	1686	1684
13. SCAMMONDEN WITH MILLHEAD	St. Bartholomew	1746	1886	1746
14. SOUTHOWRAM	St. Anne	1813	1838	1818
15. SOWERBY	St. Peter	1668	1711	1643
16. SOWERBY BRIDGE	Christ Church	1709	1730	1821
17. STAINLAND	St. Andrew	1782	1844	1783
18. TODMORDEN	St. Mary/Christ Church	1678	1669	1666

\*\*Following Hardwicke's Marriages Act of 1754, Banns and Marriages will only be found in the registers of these churches. After 1837 they lost their monopoly of marriages.